

(d) and (e). According to the present long-term projections, the coal production in the country is expected to be about 306 million tonnes by the end of 8th Five Year Plan, (i. e. 1992-1997). The production would be achieved from the production of existing mines, re-organisation of mines/projects, ongoing projects, Tentatively, in the coal sector, an outlay of Rs. 11860 Crores has been estimated.

The following steps have been taken to improve the quality of coal by Coal companies:—

- (i) provision of adequate coal handling plants;
- (ii) segregation of stones at the time of loading;
- (iii) setting up of beneficiation plants.

Demand of Coking Coal

4511. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not producing enough coking coal to meet the demands of the steel industry;

(b) the outgo of foreign exchange on account of import of coking coals during 1988-89, 1989-90, 1990-91 and 1991-92 respectively; and

(c) whether any Research and Development work has been done to improve the quality of indigenous coking coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P. A. SANGMA):

(a) Major coking coal deposits are in Jharia coalfield where there are serious geo-mining, technological and infrastructural problems like old partially worked underground mines, presence of fires and water logged workings in adjoining areas, villages, townships and other built-up structures and nallas and rivulets and other built-up structures

and nallas and rivulets requiring shifting or protection that are coming in the way of speedy development of coking coal mines in this coalfield. Moreover inherent quality of Indian coking coal reserves is inferior as such some import of low ash coking coal is required for blending purpose.

(b) The information is given below:—

Year	Approximate Value (On the basis of FOB Price) (US Million \$)
1988-89	227
1989-90	243
1990-91	310
1991-92	294
(April-February)	

(c) An expert committee (Altekar Committee) was set up in 1985 to study all the existing washeries with a view to improve the quality of washed metallurgical coking coal. As per the recommendations of this committee the existing washeries in BCCL and CCL are being modified to cater to the changed quality parameters of raw coal feed to ensure that clean coal should be of $17 \pm 0.5\%$ ash content.

Employment Generation

4512. SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have drawn up a plan to generate additional employment of 24.5 lakh during the Eighth Plan through a fixed capital investment;

(b) if so, the details of the target fixed in this regard for each state; and

(c) whether requisite raw materials and credit are also being arranged to generate such employment, if so, the details thereof?